Advisory Group consisting of representatives of ths State Government from Revenue Department, Forest Department, Planning and/or Finance Department and concerned Department whose proposal is being examined. The views of the Advisory Group will be recorded by the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests and along with the same, the proposal will be sent to the Ministry of Environment and Forests for consideration and final dscision.

(iv) Any other work assigned by the Ministry of Environment and Forests to the Regional Office including site inspection of the forest areas proposed to be diverted for non forestry use under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Migratory birds coming to India

†2511. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places in India where migratory birds generally arrive and the months in which they arrive;

(b) whether their number has been decreased; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/to be taken to increase/facilitate their numbers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) : (a) Migratory birds visit each and every part of India. However, places like wetlands are of special significance in this regard. Some of the important wetlands in the country, where relatively large congregation of migratory birds occur are Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur (Rajasthan), Sultanpur National Park (Haryana), Ranganthittoo Bird Sanctuary (Karnataka), and Nawabganj (Uttar Pradesh). The migratory birds generally start arriving in India during July-August and maximum arrival takes place during September-October.

(b) As per the information available with this Ministry, there are no reports to indicate that the number of migratory birds have decreased in India. However, a few rare birds like Siberian Crane and Sociable Plover have shown population decline.

(c) The steps taken by Central Government to preserve the migratory species and their habitats, *inter alia*, include:

1. The Central Government has enacted the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to protect wildlife including migratory birds.
2. Stringent penalties are imposed on the offenders for the contravention of the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
3. A large number of wetlands, where migratory birds occur have been declared as Protected Areas (Sanctuaries, National Parks and Conservation reserves) primarily for the protection of these birds.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

4. Twenty-five wetlands in India have been declared as wetlands of international importance (Ramsar sites).

5. India is a signatory to Ramsar Convention and Convention on Migratory species.

6. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crimes.

7. Financial support is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes – *Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant*, to State/UT Governments for the conservation and development of wildlife and its habitats, including those of migratory birds.

Per capita expenditure on forests and environment

2512. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRA SEKHAR Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total forest area coverage at present in the country, State~wise;

(b) the total per acre allocation for forest reserves in the country over the last five years;

(c) whether this allocation has been on the increase or decrease; and

(d) India's per capita expenditure on forests and environment over the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The State-wise forest cover in the country as per 2003 assessment made by Forest Survey of India by interpretation of satellite data is given as under:

Area in Km^2

State/Uts	Geographic Area	Forest Cover
1	2	
Andhra Pradesh	275,069	44,419
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	68,019
Assam	78,438	27,826
Bihar	94,163	5,558
Chhattisgarh	135,191	55,998
Delhi	1,483	170
Goa	3,702	2,156
Gujarat	196,022	14,946
Haryana	44,212	1,517